

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5986

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM,; 76

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN MEXICO

SANTIAGO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH

REFS: A) MONTEVIDEO 0341; B) MONTEVIDEO 0357

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN BLANCO CALLED ME TO SEE HIM LATE MORNING FEBRUARY 8 TO GIVE ME HIS THOUGHTS IN SUMMARY FORM ON MEXICO MFM. WHAT HE TOLD ME WAS ESSENTIALLY WHAT WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND RELATED TO HIS CONTINUING CONCERN RE STRUCTURE OF MFM, FUTURE OF INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM AND NEED TO CREATE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS OF BOTH LA AND US WITH STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO THEIR SOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. BLANCO SAID HE CONTINUED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT STRUCTURE OF MFM. HE IS AFRAID THAT LA PRESENTATION OF VARIOUS TOPICS WILL DEGENERATE INTO NOTHING MORE THAN EMPTY RHETORIC, WITH SPEAKERS "PLAYING TO THE GALLERIES", WHICH COULD PREEMPT MEANINGFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION. HE HOPES THAT SOME MEANS WILL BE FOUND TO AVOID THIS AND THAT WE WILL HELP TO EXTENT POSSIBLE IN CREATING CONDITIONS FOR TRUE DIALOGUE RATHER THAN REITERATION OF  
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DIFFERENCES WHICH HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND ALREADY DEBATED

IN DEPTH. HE HAS COMMUNICATED HIS VIEWS TO HIS LA COLLEAGUES.

3. BLANCO SAID HE ALSO CONCERNED THAT VOICES OF SMALL COUNTRIES SUCH AS URUGUAY WOULD NOT BE HEARD IN WHAT COULD BE A PUSH ON PART OF LARGER COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH MAJORITY CONSENSUS WITHOUT COMPLETE AND FREE EXPGHITION OF VIEWS OF ALL. FONMIN ALSO SEES NEED FOR SEPARATE EXPOSITION OF REGIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND BILATERAL POINTS OF VIEW, AND SEEMED CLEAR TO ME THAT HE HOPED TIME WOULD BE FOUND FOR LATTER IN PARTICULAR.

4. BLANCO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MFM WOULD CONCENTRATE ON AREAS WHERE AGREEMENT SEEMED MOST PROMISING RATHER THAN ALLOW LONG-STANDING AND MORE COMPLEX DISAGREEMENTS TO CLOUD MFM AND ITS OUTCOME.

5. FONMIN RECOGNIZED CLEARLY THAT SEVERAL TOPICS GO FAR BEYOND LA-US RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AREAS, AND THAT THESE MIGHT HAVE TO BE ADDRESSED IN OTHER FORUMS. AT THIS POINT I EXPRESSED MY AGREEMENT WITH THIS STATEMENT AND SAID THAT WHILE I WAS NOT BRIEFED ON THIS AS YET, I THOUGHT OUR THINKING WAS ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

6. BLANNT SAID THAT INSOFAR AS CONCERNED THE OAS HE WAS CONCERNED BOTH ABOUT THE FUTURE ROLE OF THE US THEREIN, AND PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE NEED FOR A STRONG EXPRESSION OF US SUPPORT FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, AND ABOUT ITS FUTURE STRUCTURE. HE SAID THAT THE PRESENT RATHER NOBLE OBJECTIVES AS CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER ARE NOT ENTIRELY IN KEEPING WITH PRESENT DAY REALITY. HE SAID HE HAD NO SPECIFIC VIEWS, HOWEVER, ON REFORM BUT COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS A GENERAL COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE US AND URUGUAY ON THE NEED FOR REALISM.

7. COMMENT: IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR FROM THIS AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS THAT THE URUGUAYANS PLACE GREAT EMPHASIS ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE MFM AND FEEL THAT THAT WILL BE THE KEY TO ITS SUCCESS. THEY DO NOT EXPECT MAJOR SOLUTIONS, BUT WISH TO SEE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH WILL PAVE THE WAY  
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FOR EVENTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS AND GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND LA. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, WE HAVE LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT THE GOU HAS ESTABLISHED FIRM POSITIONS ON THE VARIOUS TOPICS. THE KEY TO THEM IS DIALOGUE, RECOGNITION AND UNDERSTANDING OF CONFLICTING POINTS OF VIEW WHERE THEY EXIST, AND OBVIOUS INTEREST IN HEMISPHERIC AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ISSUES, AND A STRONG EXPRESSION OF US SUPPORT FOR MOVING TOGETHER TOWARDS A NEW

RELATIONSHIP.  
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